

Thank you again for praying and for all your notes of encouragement. We are busy, safe, and doing well.

How amazingly the Polish people have responded to the need of our neighbors! Everywhere around us, people have opened their homes to Ukrainian refugees. They have quickly and efficiently organized collections of food, mattresses, bedding, clothes, and children's toys. With open arms, the Polish nation has welcomed well over 100,000 women and children in the last few days, while the men have mostly remained home. Hospitality and generosity are visible at every level of society, from private individuals to small local churches, to large hotel chains that are welcoming in thousands of Ukrainians free of charge. In the midst of great evil, it is a joy to see this brotherly love.

We received an update from the Ukrainian youth group that had contacted us a few days ago. They have decided to remain in Ukraine and have found a safe place to shelter, at least for the time being.

Yesterday we had the opportunity to help 7 refugees. Anya has come to us with her four young children and her parents. She is a born-again Christian and a wonderful example of how to endure trials with joy and peace. I spent last night and a good part of this morning playing with the children. Although their father, Oleg, could legally leave Ukraine, he stayed behind to help those who are too poor, old, or handicapped to escape. Anya told me that he is fully trusting the Lord and if he dies during these days, then they will meet in heaven. She assured me that he has not lost any of his sense of humor and is spending his days trying to find ways to help those in greatest need. Just within the last hour, she said, "We cannot focus on the news and be anxious, we must trust our Father and go to Him in prayer."

Along with Anya, I want to take our concerns to our Father and trust Him to use what's happening for a harvest of eternal fruit.

Ben Layer

Ben (for Sarah, Maia and Aleyna)

PS. Attached are a couple of pictures of Anya and Oleg's children.

